1865

NORTHERN CENTRAL RR FREIGHT DEPOT (CALVERT STATION)
(Downtown Raquet Club)
Baltimore
Private

B-1045

The Northern Central Railroad's Freight Depot (Calvert Station), built in 1865, is a rare example of one phase in the history of iron roof construction. Its 100 foot span and 75 foot height mark a considerable advance over earlier iron roofs. Its cast iron compression members are cruciform in section and longer than earlier examples, which were of hollow, octagonal section, more typical of the columns of cast iron buildings. The large scale and simplicity of connections of the truss in this building express a greater confidence in the use of what was at the time a novel form of construction. Ten years later, the tricomposite form was replaced by new designs which eliminated cast iron entirely -- setting the stage for larger and longer spans.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

١.	NAME					
	COMMON:			//		
	Block 539 - T	he Northern	Central Rail	road Fre	eight Depot	
	AND/OR HISTORIC:				- 6	
5	LOCATION					
	STREET AND NUMBER:					
	Blook 539		2.			
	CITY OR TOWN:					
	Baltimore					
	STATE		co	UNTY:		
	Maryland					
3.	CLASSIFICATION				•	
	CATEGORY		OWNERGINE		STATUS	ACCESSIBL
	(Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	TO THE PUBL
	☐ District Building	☐ Public	Public Acquisition:	•	Occupied	Yes:
	Site Structure	Private	☐ In Process		Unoccupied	
	Object	□ Both	☐ Being Con	sidered	Preservation work	☐ Unrestricte
		- 100,000	With School Process and		in progress	□ No
	PRESENT USE (Check One or M	fore as Appropriate)	L			l
			Park		Transportation	☐ Comments
	Commercial Inc	dustrial	Private Residence		Other (Specify)	
		700000000000	Private Residence Religious	<u>-</u>	Other (Specify)	
		ilitary	Private Residence Religious Scientific	_	Other (Specify)	
	Educational Mi	ilitary	Religious		Other (Specify)	
4.	☐ Educational ☐ Mi	ilitary	Religious		Other (Specify)	
4.	Educational Mi Entertainment Mu OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME:	ilitary	Religious		Other (Specify)	
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DESCRIPTION	·							
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	☐ Alte	Sc. 1.*	☑ Uncliered	d	_	Moved	Original Sit	
CRIBE THE P	RESENT AND OF			The same was a series) MOTEU	C Original Str	
Probably o	dating in	part from	m 1855. w	hen the	e Beltim	ore and	Susquehana	Rail-
			- 5				th, this was	
							engone numer	
							ns; an older	
							rehouse and	
section.	acpos area	a, and or	noro i	occiro,	1100110	oroa wa.	i circaco aria	022100
	ve depot a	rea (app	ropriatel	v 100'	x 3701)	hasa	clear inter	ior
span provi	ided by an	elabora	te series	of tri	iangular	Pratt	trusses of	wrought
							major gable	
	of, as well							
Three sets	s of railr	oad track	ks veer o	ff of	the main	track	which runs	in the
the cobble	es of Guil	ford Ave	. and ent	er the	buildin	g throu	gh the main	open-
							d masonry wa	
on this en	nd is laid	in brick	k in runn	ing bor	nd. Ori	ginally	, three sti	lted,
							ieldstone ba	
							th flat sto	
							ws patchworl	K
	ckets may						bus tus bas	×10
Early in	the 1950'	s, the 1	ert and c	enter a	erched w	foreed	ped out and	re-
praced wit	th a large	, rectan	gular ope	ning w.	unll fac	m the 1	concrete fr eft side of	the
opening to	o the end	of the w	all The	outli	ne of th	ne arche	d opening o	n the
							r, garage do	
							glass block	
dow: the	remainder	of the a	rched ope	ning h	as been	filled	with brick.	,
The three,	, central, r	ound arc	hed windo	ws have	e been b	ricked	in and thei	r sills
sliced awa	ay, and the	e five,	small win	dows al	bove the	em have e	ach been fi	lled
with glass	s block wi	th a sem	i-circle	of bri	ck patch	work ab	ove.	
The Cuilfe	ord Avenue	side de	monstrate	s most	clearly	the or	i ginal appe	arance
of the st	ructure; h	owever,	it, too,	has un	dergone	extensi	ve alterati	ons.
Nineteen	bays of th	e buildi	ng run pa	rallel	to Guil	Liord; t	wo angled b	ays
record ho	w the rall	road tra	cks veere	d oll	or Gulli	ord at	Centre St.	to
enter the	yard of t	ne demoi	isned (19	40) Ua.	rterio o	Postin	on, even th	bugn h
the track	s themselv	es are n	no holt o	TH EXT	nroject	ring hri	g on a roug ck piers ma	rk
		and sto	ne bell c	Ou1 50,	project	ottie of t	on proro ma	110
the bays.	r five th	neo-cent	ered arch	ed one	nings or	corred	at the seco	nd.
eivth to	nth fourt	eenth a	nd eighte	enth h	avs from	n the le	ft of the n	ine-
toen hav	side. the	opening	in the ei	ohteen	th bay v	was much	larger tha	n the
others	Ahove each	minor a	rch. thre	e roun	d archeo	d window	s set in br	ick
are now a	11 bricked	in. Al	l other b	avs ha	ve a set	t of two	round arch	ed
windowsop	enings at	the same	level, w	with do	uble hur	ng windo	ws of $6/6$ 1	ights
and woode	n tympanum	ns. All	windows r	est on	flat st	tone wil	ls which sp	an
the bays.	running f	from pier	to pier.	00				
Each bay	now contai	ins a rec	tangular,	woode	n garage	e door w	ith St. And	rews
cross bra	cing, with	a doubl	e row of	eight	fixed li	ights ru	nning acros	S
the top.	Each has	been fit	ted with	a rein	forced o	concrete	lintel. B	Brick
corbellin	g appears	in each	bay below	sever	al cour	ses of b	rick laid i	n
Flemish b	ond direct	:ly below	the cave	es (all	other 1	brickwor	k and patch	work
	ming bond)							

	heck One or More as	Approp	riate)	CONTRACTOR OF STREET		
] Pre-Columbian		☐ 16th Century		☐ 18th Century	20th Century
Ļ	15th Century		☐ 17th Century		19th Century	
SPECIFIC	DATE(S) (If Applicabl	e and	Known)			
AREAS OF	SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One	or More as Appropria	e)		
Al	or iginal		Education		Political	Urban Planning
	Prehistoric		Engineering		Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
	_ Historic		Industry		losophy	
	Agriculture	0	Invention		Science	
	Architecture		Landscape	A 1000	Sculpture	
	Art Commerce		Architecture Literature		Social/Human-	
225	Communications				itarian 	
	Conservation		Military		Theater	
<u> </u>	Conservation		Music		Transportation	
	T OF SIGNIFICANCE		DATA STATE OF THE	THE PARTY OF THE P	ALIKE SEV NOVE	neighborhood, be-
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forms sound re-use kind of type of cause	condition. No of the now va f space that t f building, wi it offers a mu	amer acan the Lth	ous schemes hat structure, we structure prova unique structure de consende	is. ive by which vides tura spa	ransition from This archaic Deen offered for would take for Because it It system stice to a dense	aborate structural wood to all iron. system is still in for the adaptive full advantage of the is the last of a ll is tact, and being built area, the its significance.

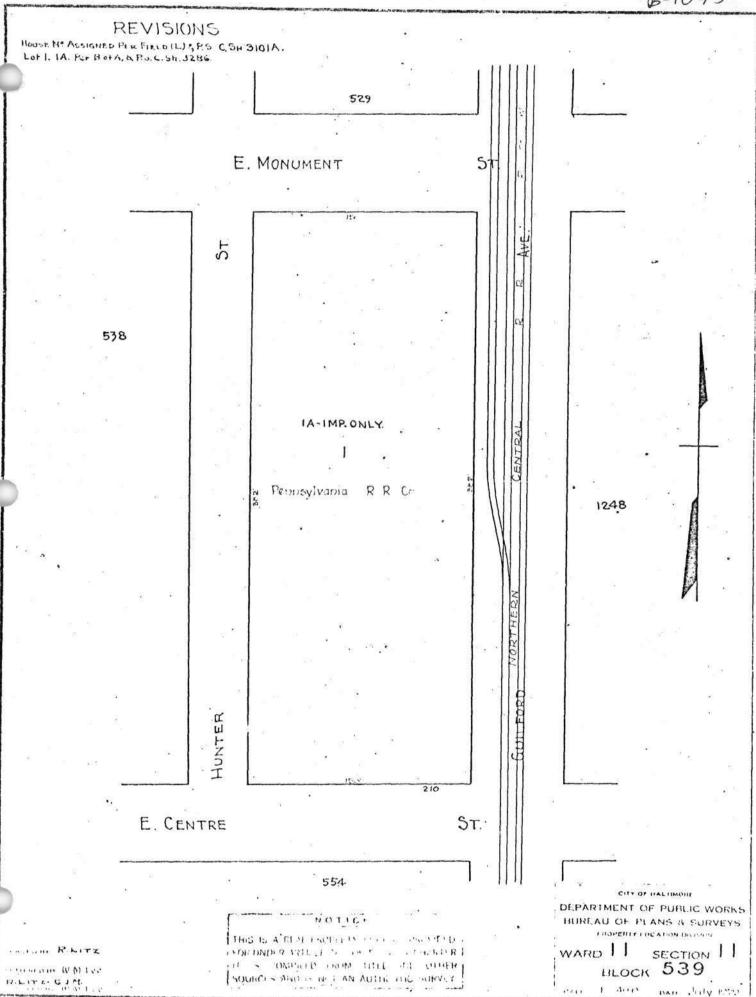
GEOG	RAPHICAL	DATA									
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(cont'd)

The profile of the minor gable reveals a scries of lowered vents set into the asbestos shingles side walls. The two angled bays have stone bases and the same belt course. One double hung window with 6/6 lights are set in each bay. A string course of stone rums above these, and the original double sets of round arched windows are now partially bricked in to hold smaller, rectangular windows with 6/6 lights. The Centre Street end of the building has been wholly but neathr altered and is a product of the 1950's. A concrete base evens cut the slope of the street and supports walls of hard-finished brick. Square window openings set in smooth stone frames are filled with multi-light, horizontally hinged casements set in steel sashes. They are arranged across the facade in arranged across the facade in irregular groupings of one, two and three windows. A double wooden door on the left side has a transom which is one of these windows set at the same level. Above the door, the aluminum letters " alve t Static " (Calvert Station) remain to identify the building.

A wide stone belt course tops the hardened brick above the windows. Above the belt course, the older building remains. It is broken into five irregular bays, divided by both piers, which are symmetrical about the center. The largest, central bey is fenestrated like the Monument Street, upper facade with a row of five smaller windows above a row of three larger windows. The bays immediately flanking the central one each hold a single round arched window of the same size and at the same .level of the three in the central bay. The two end bays hold windows the size of the five, small, higher windows. All of these openings have flat stone sills with round headed brick arch lintels, and are filled with glass block topped with semi-circular brick patchwork. Brick corbelling runs beneath the wooden gable end. Probably constructed some time in the 1890's, the two story, brick office section adjoins this end of the building on the left. The four Centre Street bays are defined by five projecting brick piers which rise from the ground to support a wide metal cornice, capped with clay tiles. The left bay holds a wooden door with transom and side lights, above which is a single double hung window. All of the sash is missing from all of the first and second floor windows, although the double frames remain. The two central bays have double sets of identical windows at each floors. All windows have flat stone sills and flat iron lintels with metal rosette bolts. Three basement window openings in the two central bays are framed in brick and have fixed windows of eight lights each. The two bays which continue down the alley side each contain two of the same, identically detailed windows at each floor. Stretching behind the offices along Hunter Alley is a high, 13 bay long covered loading building, with ten garage door openings, also dating from the 1890's. Behind this is a low seven bay long structure with six garage doors of more recent vintage. All doorways have been fitted with retractable, corrupted steel doors. They are framed by reinforced concrete piers and lintels set into the brick and resting on a concrete base. A ribbed metal awning is suspended above the doors from metal rods hooked into each of the brick piers which define the bays. Each bay is fitted with a tripartite window on the second level, which have flat stone sills and iron lintels with tolt rosettes. All windows are touble hung with 2/2 lights and have wooden frames and sash. The brick wall above is topped with the same metal cornice and clay tile.

The seven bay long addition is built entirely of brick and has a metal cornice atom a low brick paramet. There are six garage door openings. Extending east, flush with the Monument Street end of the depot, a single solid brick bay with cornice return fronts on Monument St.





QUILFORD WAREHOUSE

8-1045

WHOLE BLOCK

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

NAME			
HISTORIC North	ern Central Rail	road Baltimore F	reight Shed
AND/OR COMMON			
	own Racquet Club	(Downtown A+	hletic Club)
LOCATION			
STREET & NUMBER	1 1 0		
CITY, TOWN	ord and Centre S	treets	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Baltin	more _	VICINITY OF	3rd
STATE			COUNTY
CLASSIFICAT			
95		@300/e300000 RestRess () 53 1	
CATEGORYDISTRICT	OWNERSHIP _PUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	PRESENT USE
	X_PRIVATE	_UNOCCUPIED	AGRICULTUREMUSEUM COMMERCIALPARK
Y	_BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONALPRIVATE RESIDE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENTRELIGIOUS
_OBJECT _	_IN PROCESS	X_YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENTSCIENTIFIC
<u>s-</u>	_BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL _TRANSPORTATIO
		NO	_MILITARY X_OTHER.Sport
OWNER OF P	ROPERTY		Sport
	ROPERTY Racquet Club, I	nc. Te	elephone #: 301-332-0906
NAME DOWNTOWN STREET & NUMBER	Racquet Club, I	1,	elephone #: 301-332-0906
NAME Downtown STREET & NUMBER 210 E. Ce	Racquet Club, I	VICINITY OF Ma	elephone #: 301-332-0906
NAME Downtown STREET & NUMBER 210 E. Ce	Racquet Club, I	VICINITY OF M:	elephone #: 301-332-0906
NAME DOWNTOWN STREET & NUMBER 210 E. Ce CITY. TOWN 1 timore LOCATION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.	Racquet Club, I	VICINITY OF ME	elephone #: 301-332-0906 aryland STATE, Zipogode
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PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	ART	X ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X1800-1899	COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	X_TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	X INDUSTRY _INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY).
SPECIFIC DATI	ES 1865	_INVENTION BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT S.H. & J.F.	Adams

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Northern Central Railroad's Freight Depot (Calvert Station), built in 1865, is a rare example of one phase in the history of iron roof construction. Its 100 foot span and 75 foot height mark a considerable advance over earlier iron roofs. Its cast iron compression members are cruciform in section and longer than earlier examples, which were of hollow, octagonal section, more typical of the columns of cast iron buildings The large scale and simplicity of connections of the truss in this building express a greater confidence in the use of what was at the time a novel form of construction. Ten years later, the tricomposite form was replaced by new designs which eliminated cast iron entirely -- setting the stage for larger and longer spans

Historical background:

The Northern Central Railroad was the principal link between the Pennsylvania Railroad and the port of Baltimore. It allowed Baltimore's imports access to the northeast by connecting to the Penn RR lines at Harrisburg. With the completion of the Baltimore & Potomac Railroad from Baltimore to Washington, the Northern Central became the vital link in the Penn RR's southern division.

Northern Central built the freight depot building at Calvert and Centre Streets in 1865 as part of their Calvert Station complex. A number of Baltimore construction companies took part in the building of the depot, as noted in an April 20, 1865 Baltimore American article:

"This enterprising railway company... may now pride itself upon having the largest and probably the best railway depot building in the United States. This immense and imposing structure...is really worthy of an inspection on the progress of the mechanic arts. The building in length measures 382 feet, with a width of 150, and nearly one million bricks were used in its construction. The principal contractors were Messrs. S.H. and J.F. Adams, favorably known in Baltimore as experienced builders, and all interested say that they have done full justice to their contract. The height of the structure from the foundation to the apex of the roof is 75 feet, and whilst the interior has a light appearance, it is quite apparent that it possesses unusual

North Central Railroad Baltimore Freight Station 8) Historical Significance Page 2

strength, and will stand the wear and tear of years. The foundation and part of the superstructure is of rough stone work, done by Messrs. Oliver and Fleming, and has been pronounced the best job of the kind in the city... The first story or basement occupies the entire space of the lot, and will be used for the reception or delivery of goods. The floors on each side of the wagon way will be laid with concrete so as to render them perfectly dry. The gas fixtures, whichaare upon the most approved plan were put up by Mr. Charles Kaffinski... The roof is well covered with slate as a protection against fire, and light is admitted from each side by two rows of sash casements 112 in number... The bricklayers work was done by Mr. William Fowler and the iron work by Hayward, Bartlett & Company. The main story is occupied by various lines of tracking, which are sufficient in extent to accommodate at least one hundred cars, with ample space for rooms for the agent and clerks of the freight department... The main front upon Centre street is of the finest brick work, and contains two immense doorways, in which there is ample space for vehicles and pedestrians to pass in and out; whilst on the southwest corner is a commodious office for the accommotation of Mr. William Brown, freight agent, and his corps of indefatigable clerks."

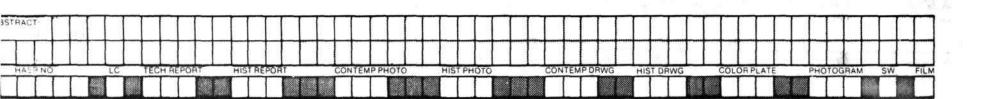
In 1946 the facade of the freight shed was altered as part of its transformation into a passenger terminal following the destruction of the old Calvert Station passenger terminal to make way for the new Sunpapers building. Derelict in 1976, the depot has been renovated as a private racquet sports club. Although some changes have been made to the exterior and the interior, which now includes a health club, track, courts, offices and a restaurant, the roof system has been left unchanged and exposed above the tennis courts.

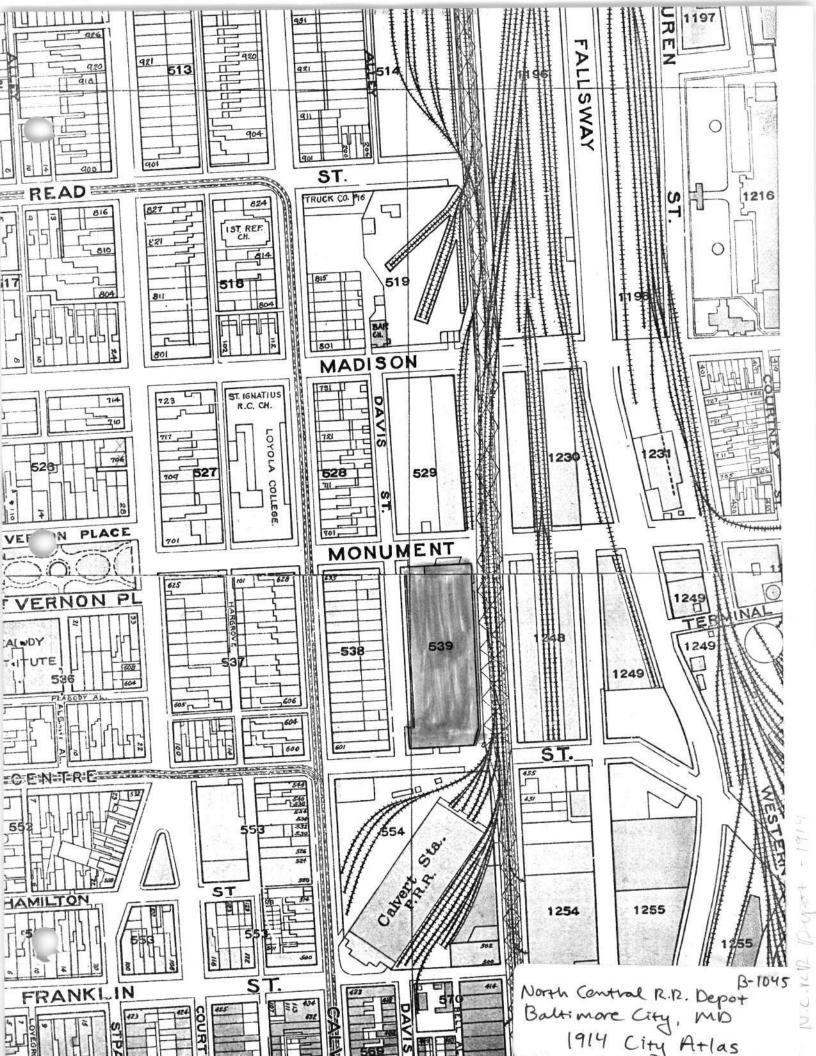
1. SITE I.D. NO B 1 0 4 5	NAER INVENTORY	Heritage	U.S. Department of the Interi Conservation and Recreation Servi
2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION	3. PRIORITY 4. DANGER OF DEMOLITIC		■ NO □ UNKNOWN
Transportation	(SPECIFY THREAT)		19
	5. DATE 6. GOVT SOURCE OF THRE	OWNE	R ADMIN
	7. OWNER/ADMIN Downtown Raq	uet Club, Inc.	
8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE	9. OWNER'S ADDRESS		90
NORTHERN CENTRAL RAILROAD FREIGHT DEPOT (Calvert Station)	9	x 2
10. STATE MD COUNTY NAME CITY/VICINITY Baltimor	e CONG. STATE M D COUNTY	COUNTY NAME	Baltimore CONG. DIST.
11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)	12. EXISTING ONR SURVEYS		□HAER—I □HAER □NPS □CL □COUNTY □LOCAL □OTHER
210 E. Centre St.	13. SPECIAL FEATURES (D		INTACTENVIRONS INTA
14 UTM ZONE EASTING NORTHING	SIGN SCALE ■ 1:24 □ 1:62.5	QUAD	ě.
1 8 3 6 1 0 0 5 4 3 5 0 7 5	O	NAME	
OTHER EASTING NORTHING		QUAD NAME	
15. CONDITION 70 EXCELLENT 71 GOOD 72 FAIR		UNEXPOSED 76 ALTERE	
16.INVENTORIED BY Dennis Zembala	Baltimore Industrial	Museum	December 1980
TO DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE MATERIALS, EXTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ENGINEERS, ET See Statement of Significance	E(S), HISTORICAL DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, C.		
		V	
			(CONT OV
18 ORIGINAL USE	PRESENT USE	ADAPTIVE USE	
RR Freight Shed	Recreation (private athletic	club)	// Water 1
The PA, Wilmington & Baltimore RR (in Md			
M. Meeks, <u>Down at the Depot</u> Article in Baltimore American (April 2	0, 1865, p. 4, Col. 8)		
		4	(CONT OVER
20 URBAN AREA 50,000 POP OR MORE? ■ YES ■ NO 21.	BLIC ACCESSIBILITY	UNLIMITED NOWN	23. EDITOR INDEXER
24 LOCATED IN AN HISTOF STRICT? YES NO NAMI FHR 8-260 1/79 HCRS REGION		DISTRIC	CT I.D. NO

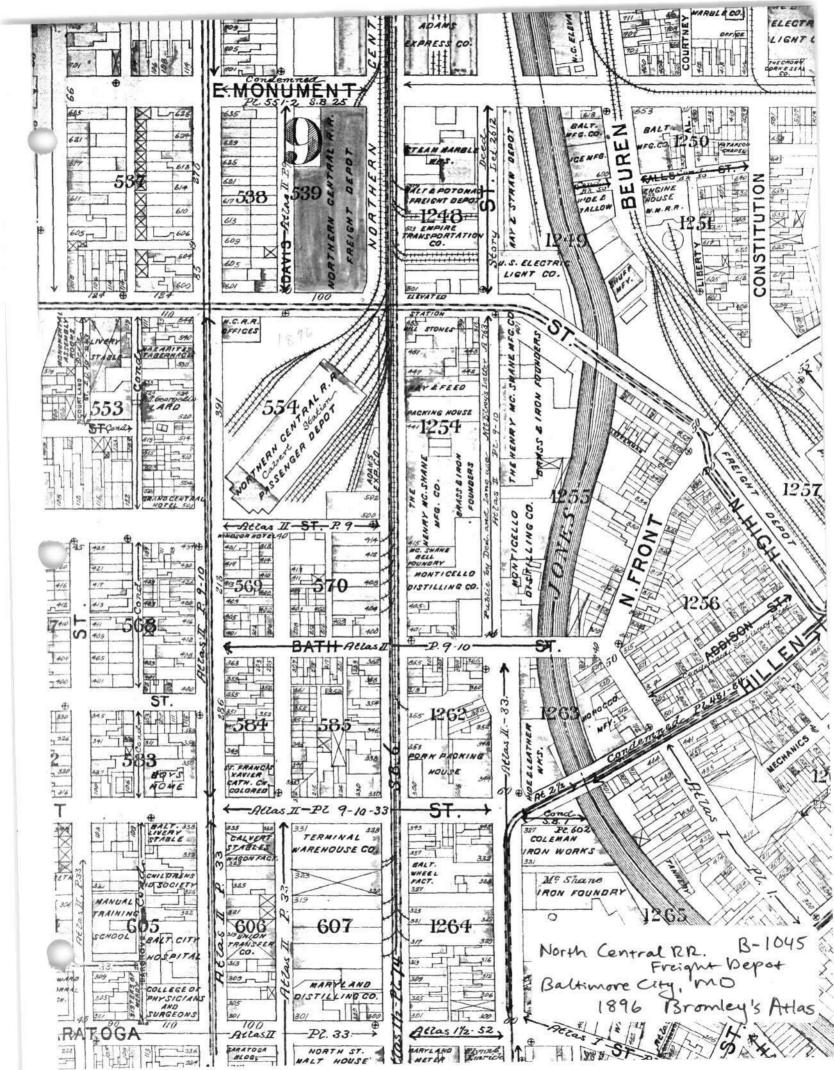
OTOS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION

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Northern Central Railroad's Freight Depot (Calvert Station, built in 1865, is a rare example of one phase in the story of iron roof construction. Its 100 foot span and 76 foot height mark a considerable advance over earlier iron ofs. Its cast iron compression members are cruciform in section and longer than earlier examples, which were of hollow, agonal section, more typical of the columns of cast iron buildings. The large scale and simplicity of connections the truss in this building express a greater confidence in the use of what was at the time a novel form of construction years later, the tricomposite form was replaced by hew designs which eliminated cast iron entirely—setting the stage for larger and longer spans.



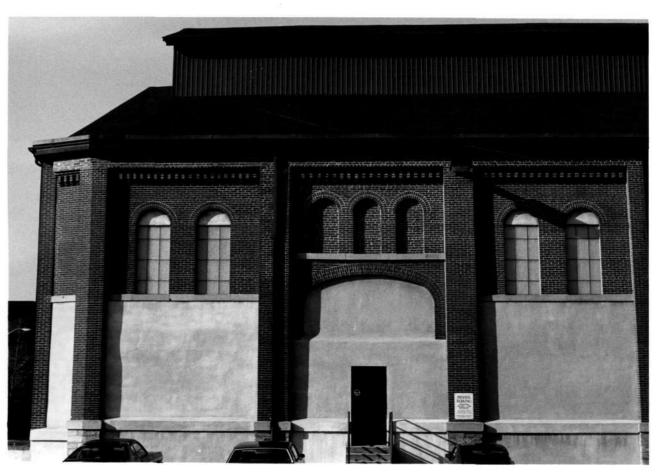








North Central RR Freight Dep. B1045
Baltimore City, MD.
Photo: Ann Steele
Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust
Dec. 1980
Looking south/west

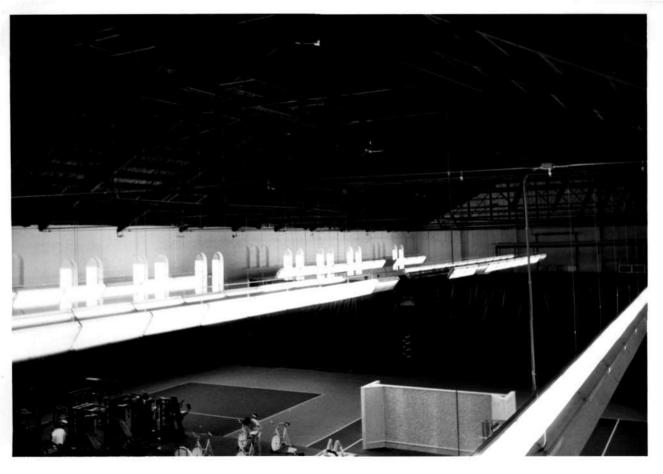


North Central RR Freight Dep. B1045
Baltimore City, MD.

Photo: Ann Steele
Neg. Loc.: MD. Historic Trust
Dec. 1980
Detail, south end of Guilford St.
facade



North Central RR Freight Dep. B1045
Baltimore City, MD.
Photo: Ann Steele
Neg. Loc.: M.D. Historic Trust
Dec. 1980
West Sacade (looking north/east)



North Central RR Freight Dep. B1045
Baltimore City, MD.
Photo: Ann Steele
Neg. Loc.: MD. Historic Trust
Dec. 1980
Roof construction (cast iven Fink)



North Central RR Freight Dep. B1045
Baltimore City, MD.
Photo: Ann Steele
Neg. Loc.: MD. Historic Trust
Dec. 1980
Roof construction